

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 24090 01 OF 02 191426Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 IO-13 ACDA-07 SSO-00 TRSE-00  
/081 W  
-----100939 191513Z /50

P R 191414Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7351  
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
USMISSION USBERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 24090

DEPARTMENT PLEASE NOTIFY EUR/CE ON RECEIPT

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, BQG  
SUBJ: LORENZ CASE: PLAISANT ON NEXT STEPS

REF: BONN 13456

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN FURTHER CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBOFF, PLAISANT SAID THAT THE FRENCH WILL FEEL "FULLY REASSURED" OVER FRG INTENTIONS TO COMPLY WITH ALLIED VIEWS ON THE LORENZ CASE AND RELATED ISSUES IF ALLIED VIEWS ARE TRANSMITTED IN WRITING BY THE "CHANCELLERY" TO THE FRG JUSTICE MINISTER. THIS AND RELATED ISSUES COULD THEN BE CONSIDERED CLOSED. END SUMMARY.

2. IN FURTHER INFORMAL MEETING AUGUST 18, PLAISANT TOO REFLECTED OPTIMISM (REFTEL) THAT ALLIED AGREEMENT  
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PAGE 02 PARIS 24090 01 OF 02 191426Z

ON HANDLING OF THE LORENZ CASE WAS WITHIN REACH. HE CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS WAS ONLY PHASE ONE AND THAT FINAL RESOLUTION OF THE SITUATION STILL DEPENDED ON THE FRG'S REACTIONS TO AND SUBSEQUENT COMPLIANCE WITH THE ALLIED POSITION.

3. LOOKING TOWARD THIS NEXT STAGE, PLAISANT ADMITTED,

PRIVATELY AND OFF THE RECORD, THAT THE OBJECTIONS THE FRENCH HAVE RAISED, AND ARE MAINTAINING, TO THE HOLDING OF THE EC MONETARY COMMITTEE MEETING IN BERLIN WERE TACTICAL--TO WIT A BARGAINING CHIP. THE BAUM AND MAIHOFER INCIDENTS, THE LORENZ CASE, AND OTHER RECENT GERMAN "MISDEMEANORS" ON BERLIN, TAKEN TOGETHER, HAD "OVERLOADED THE CIRCUIT." THIS PUT THE ALLIES IN AN UNNECESSARILY VULNERABLE POSITION VIS-A-VIS THE USSR. THE FRENCH NEGOTIATING OBJECTIVE IS THEREFORE TO RESTORE THE STATUS QUO ANTE, I.E., TO POSITIONS, PARTICULARLY ON THE LORENZ CASE, WHICH THEY CAN "DEFEND VIS-A-VIS THE USSR WITH FULL ASSURANCE." ONCE GOF WAS "FULLY REASSURED," IT WOULD ALSO RELEGATE TO THE PAST THE RECENT FRG ACTIONS ON BERLIN WHICH HAVE CAUSED CONCERN, INCLUDING ALMOST CERTAINLY THE EC MONETARY COMMITTEE QUESTION.

4. TO THIS END PLAISANT CONTINUED ON STRICT BACK-GROUND, FRENCH WILL REQUEST THAT ALLIED VIEWS ON THE LORENZ CASE BE TRANSMITTED IN WRITING "BY THE CHANCELLERY" (HE SPECIFICALLY DID NOT SAY THE CHANCELLOR) TO THE FRG JUSTICE MINISTER, AND THAT A COPY OF SUCH A LETTER OF INSTRUCTION BE TRANSMITTED TO THE ALLIES. SIMILAR PROCEDURES HAD BEEN EMPLOYED IN THE PAST, ALTHOUGH GENERALLY IN THE FORM OF FRG FOREIGN OFFICE LETTERS TO OTHER FRG MINISTRIES. GIVEN THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PARIS 24090 01 OF 02 191426Z

SERIOUSNESS OF RECENT PROBLEMS WITH THE FRG, PLAISANT SAID THAT NOW ONLY A LETTER FROM THE CHANCELLERY WOULD REASSURE GUIRINGAUD SUFFICIENTLY TO WIPE SLATE CLEAN.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 01 PARIS 24090 02 OF 02 191435Z  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 24090

5. EMBOFF ASKED IN CONCLUSION WHAT PLAISANT THOUGHT HAD GIVEN RISE TO THE RECENT SERIES OF BERLIN PROBLEMS WITH THE FRG. THE FRENCH, PLAISANT REPLIED, WERE AS PUZZLED AS EVERYONE ELSE. THEY DID NOT BELIEVE THESE INCIDENTS WERE COINCIDENTAL, BUT SUSPECT THAT THEY REPRESENTED "MISGUIDED PREENING" BY CERTAIN FRG OFFICIALS IN ANTICIPATION OF BREZHNEV'S VISIT TO BONN--TO SHOW THE SOVIETS THAT THE FRG TOO HAD CHIPS TO PLAY IN BERLIN. IF SO, PLAISANT CONCLUDED, THIS WAS WRONG AND RISKY. IN THE SAME VEIN, GUIRINGAUD SAID TO AMBASSADOR HARTMAN A FEW DAYS AGO THAT THE ALLIES "MUST GET IT ACROSS TO THE FRG THAT THEY CANNOT HOPE TO TAKE ON THE USSR BY THEMSELVES, BUT THAT THIS CAN ONLY BE DONE IF WE ARE ALL TOGETHER."

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PAGE 02 PARIS 24090 02 OF 02 191435Z

6. TO ACHIEVE THIS END, WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE FRENCH NOW ONLY WANT THE FRG TO ASSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE "FULLY DEFENSIBLE" ALLIED POSITIONS WHICH ARE BEING AGREED TO IN THE BONN GROUP. A CHANCELLERY INSTRUCTION WOULD APPARENTLY DO THAT TRICK AND END THIS AFFAIR.  
HARTMAN

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## Message Attributes

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